

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **OCT 18 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Palatka South Historic District

and/or common N/A

*Roughly bounded by St. John's River,
Oak, S. 9th, and Morris Sts.*

2. Location

street & number (See Continuation Sheet)

N/A not for publication

city, town Palatka

N/A vicinity of

state Florida

code 012

county Putnam

code 107

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (Owner notification by newspaper advertisement)

street & number N/A

city, town Palatka

N/A vicinity of

state Florida

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Putnam County Courthouse

street & number 400 St. Johns Avenue

city, town Palatka

state Florida

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Cultural Resources Survey of
title Palatka, Florida

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980-1981

federal state county local

depository for survey records Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management

city, town Tallahassee

state Florida

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 ~~100%~~ **100**
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Palatka South Historic District is a late nineteenth early twentieth century residential neighborhood in Palatka, Florida. This 23 block area of Palatka is located immediately south of downtown. The styles represented in this district include Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Bungalow, Mediterranean Revival and frame vernacular. Although the exterior fabrics are generally wood, there are masonry commercial buildings in the northern part of the district. The buildings are generally in a good state of repair.

The Palatka South Historic District is a well-defined 23 block section immediately south of the commercial business district. It is bounded on the north by a line running one-half block north of Oak Street, on the west by South Ninth Street, and on the south generally by Morris Street, and on the east by the St. Johns River, which offers a splendid panorama of the substantial waterfront homes that line River Street. The district includes Palatka's most desirable late nineteenth century neighborhood, the "Hammock," a well-developed area bounded by Laurel, Crill and Morris Streets and the river.

The district is essentially residential in nature with a high density of pre-1930 development on streets that have retained their pattern since they were first platted in the 1840s and 1850s (figs. 37-40). Commercial, religious, and educational establishments are generally found on or north of Laurel Street where density of residential development is correspondingly less.

The South Historic District contains the largest collection of historic structures in Palatka, one of the most historically significant cities in northeast Florida. The architecture of the district represents many eras of the city's history, particularly its "Golden Age" of the late nineteenth century. Of the 174 pre-1930 buildings almost half date from that period and all but one of the nineteenth century structures are located east of South Seventh and Crill. The greatest density of early twentieth century development is west of that line and most date from the period (1900-1915) when the city was expanding away from its waterfront neighborhoods.

As a result of 75 years of development, the South Historic District possesses a diverse architectural legacy. Five residences date from the 1850s, the largest number of pre-Civil War buildings in any one area in Palatka, although all have been significantly altered and have lost their mid-nineteenth century character, especially the ca. 1853 Sanchez-Peterman House, the oldest of the group (fig. 29). That house, the ca. 1857 Hopkins-Adams House (fig. 31) and the ca. 1857 Capt. Gray House (fig. 28) are located north of Laurel Street, while two, the ca. 1856 Quarterman House (fig. 22) and the ca. 1855 William Forward House (fig. 26) are found on River Street.

The late nineteenth century buildings reflect the widest range and types of architectural styles in the district. Streets particularly noteworthy for their large numbers of residences from Palatka's "Golden Age" of architectural development are Emmett, Kirby, Dodge, Kirkland, South Fourth, South Fifth, and South Sixth. The most common late nineteenth century building is a 2-2½ story, frame dwelling that exhibits a simple regular plan and massing. One type has either a hip or a gable roof with a L-shaped veranda porch that displays considerable woodwork such as scroll brackets, friezes, turned posts, and balusters. The best example of this type is the 1897 Blanchard House at 400 Emmett Street with its highly decorative two-story porch and ornamented window heads (fig. 5). The vernacular residences strive for a classical look by employing various classical and colonial elements such as round wood columns with Ionic capitals on their two-story verandas. A most interesting classical vernacular building is the 1884 Mount House at 111 Kirkland Street. The building is symmetrically organized and like Roman Classicism, employs a full entablature between the two-story veranda (fig. 11). A third type of

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1852-1930 **Builder/Architect** Various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This late nineteenth century, early twentieth century district is significant as the most fashionable 19th century residential area in Palatka. It contains several antebellum homes and is significant for the quality and concentration of its architecture. Historically, this area of Palatka is important for its association with political and economic leaders of 19th century Florida.

The Palatka South Historic District is a section of the city known historically as the "Hammock", essentially residential, boasting the ornate and grand houses that reflect a nineteenth century "Golden Age" when Palatka for a time occupied a place as one of Florida's leading port cities and tourist destinations. The verdant bank of the majestic and historic St. Johns River, graced by sprawling live oaks and lush magnolias, forms the eastern boundary of the district. Palatka is located at a site on the river that was prized for centuries by Indian, Spanish, English, and American occupants of northeast Florida for its convenience as a crossing place and natural terminus for ocean-borne traffic. The district contains one of Florida's major collections of nineteenth century residences, including five pre-Civil War buildings. Characteristic of the outstanding architectural specimens are the magnificent 1886 Queen Anne Conant House at 603 Emmett Street (fig. 8) and the ca. 1884 Georgian style William Tilghman House at 324 River Street (fig. 19), the latter one of a row of important and stately homes that look out upon the St. Johns. Two fine Romanesque Revival churches are also found in the South Historic District. The residences, churches, and several commercial buildings that comprise the district are the architectural legacy of an age when Palatka played a prominent role in the political and economic affairs of Florida and earned the title of "the Gem of the St. Johns."

Located on the banks of the St. Johns River some thirty miles southeast of St. Augustine, Palatka finds its European origins in the mid-seventeenth century land grants extended by the Spanish royal governors to the wealthy and influential Menendez Marques family, descendents of Pedro Menendez of Aviles, conquistador of Florida and founder of the colony. The grant that includes the site of the present city was called Tocacruz and ran twenty miles along the St. Johns from a point beginning about five miles north of Palatka. The approximately 400-square mile tract was a modest part of the Menendez Marques family holdings, which extended across a large section of central and north central Florida. The Tocacruz grant was especially valued for the river crossing it offered the family in the process of shipping its cattle to the royal slaughter house in St. Augustine.¹

During Florida's first period of Spanish colonial occupation (1565-1763), development of the cattle industry and settlement of the region languished under the impact of incessant British and Indian hostility and when in 1763 England acquired the Florida colony, the Spanish occupants abandoned it virtually en masse. The British hastily invalidated the Spanish land claims and initiated a liberal land policy designed to attract settlers.² White settlement came slowly, however, and migratory Indians from the interior often camped at the crossing place later to become known as Palatka. Royal botanist John Bartram found signs of "an ancient plantation" there in 1765 and in 1774 his son, William, discovered an Indian encampment on the sloping bank of the river, probably on the site that was to become known as the "Hammock" and which is now included within the South Historic District.³

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 93

Quadrangle name Palatka

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7	4	3	8	3	8	0	3	2	7	8	9	7	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

1	7	4	3	8	0	8	0	3	2	7	9	4	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

1	7	4	3	8	1	0	0	3	2	7	9	5	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

1	7	4	3	8	2	4	0	3	2	7	9	6	5	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

1	7	4	3	8	9	0	0	3	2	7	9	5	7	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

1	7	4	3	9	0	6	0	3	2	7	9	4	7	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

1	7	4	3	9	1	4	0	3	2	7	9	6	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

1	7	4	3	9	2	1	0	3	2	7	9	6	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Adams/Larry S. Paarlberg, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Division of Archives, History & Rec. Mgmt. date September 30, 1983

street & number The Capitol telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature George W. Percy

title George W. Percy, State Historic Preservation Officer date 10/13/83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Melores Byers Entered in the National Register date 11/17/83
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Streets running east-west

Oak Street	306-822
Laurel Street	203-923
Carr Street	806-920
Crill Street	505-627
Kirby Street	415-627
Emmett Street	313-703
River Street	309-622

Streets running north-south

S.2nd	120-134
S.3rd	114-210
S.4th	114-220
S.5th	212-221
S.6th	116-220
S.7th	122-200
S.8th	121-314
S.9th	300-320
S.10th	305-315

Bounded on the east by the St. Johns River, on the north by the southern edge of the commercial area along Oak Street, on the west by S.9th Street, and on the south by Morris Street.

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late nineteenth century vernacular architecture displays Greek Revival influences, particularly as shown on the 1876 Smith House at 321 Oak Street (fig. 14) and the 1884 Seigler-Yelverton House at 608 Oak Street (fig. 16). Transoms, sidelights at the entrance, squared portico and gabled pediments lend a distinctive character to these vernacular buildings.

The vernacular buildings also exhibit Victorian Gothic and stick style influences such as irregular plan and massing and resulting asymmetrical composition, complex roof systems, mostly L-shaped or U-shaped verandas with wood ornamentation, especially scroll brackets, decorative balustrades, pendant and gable trim, and kingpost and collar-tie in the gable ends. The 1886 Boyle-Bailey House at 510 Emmett Street represents one of the best examples of stick style residential architecture in Palatka (fig. 6). More modest, 1½-story frame dwellings are also found in the district, although many display decorative porches similar to those found on the large residences. World War I era Bungalow porches have been added to a significant number of late nineteenth century vernacular dwellings, making an interesting and sometimes incongruous hybrid of different stylistic influences.

The major buildings in the South Historic District include two Georgian style residences, the 1881 Gardner House at 129 Kirkland Street (fig. 12) and the 1887 William Tilghman House at 324 River Street (fig. 19), and the magnificent Queen Anne Conant House. Built in 1886, the Conant House is the most luxurious example of Queen Anne architecture in Palatka. This massive residence displays a rich asymmetrical composition of varying size dormers, gable roofs and a polygonal turret with a tent roof. An encircling veranda exhibits profuse wood ornamentation with a lattice frieze and curvilinear brackets (fig. 8).

Church architecture of the period is equally impressive. Both the 1886 First Presbyterian Church at 121 South Second Street (fig. 30) and the 1897 St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church at 118 South Fourth Street (fig. 27) are constructed of brick and designed in a Romanesque Revival style.

The early twentieth century brought a departure from earlier architectural tradition. Colonial Revival became the most significant style of the 1900-1915 period. These buildings usually expressed a symmetrical facade organization, hip roof with central hip dormer, and a one-story veranda supported by tapered and squared columns. Sidelights and transoms are often found at the formal entrances. The 1896 Canova House at 326 River Street forms the earliest and finest example of a Colonial Revival residence (fig. 20), while the 1915 Hamm House at 520 River Street displays an interesting example of Colonial Revival with slight Prairie School influence in the porch treatment (fig. 24). Vernacular frame dwellings comprise the largest number of buildings of this period. Residences ranged from one to two stories and many still stressed lingering traces of the late nineteenth century vernacular modes. Most vernacular residences of the 1900-1915 period, however, exhibit notable Colonial Revival and Bungalow influences. Colonial Revival characteristics were usually found in the massing while Bungalow elements were often found on the porch treatment and in the use of exposed rafter ends for decoration. An impressive example of this hybrid is the 1915 Noah Tilghman House at 114 Dodge Street (fig. 1).

(See Continuation Sheet)

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Vernacular styles predominated in the 1915-1930 period also, and like the previous fifteen years exhibited other stylistic influences, particularly Colonial Revival and Bungalow. The 1916 Hancock House at 812 Oak Street is a classic statement of this intermixing of early twentieth century styles (fig. 18). Only one vernacular building, a 1930 residence at 107 Morris Street, shows any influence from the more popular Mediterranean Revival style. The South District also boasts several masonry vernacular commercial buildings, especially The 1939 Coca-Cola bottling plant at 122 South Seventh Street which displays an entrance of cut stone quoins (fig. 32), and the 1924 retail shop at 204 South Third Street (fig. 35). The Coca-Cola Building is the only building built in this district after 1930 which is considered a contributing structure.

The major stylistic statement of the period, however, was the Bungalow. Most Bungalows are one and one-half stories with a rectangular plan. Bungalows invariably use a very shallow sloping gable roof and usually employ a similar gable over the front porch. Both gables are turned toward the street, giving a gable emphasis to the facade. Short, heavy tapered and squared columns sit atop heavy brick or rusticated concrete block piers. Occasionally the piers are monumental, battered and extend full height without utilizing columns. Ornament is created by oversizing structural elements such as triangular wood brackets. Rafter ends are usually exposed to further utilize structure for ornamental purposes. Often chimneys are exterior and become part of the overall composition. Two of Palatka's most significant statements of the Bungalow style are located at 614 and 616 River Street (fig. 25).

Other styles evident from the 1915-1930 period are Mediterranean Revival, as seen on the massive 1926 Campbell School Administration building (fig. 34) at 507 South Seventh Street, Federal, as on the 1924 Culbreath House at 510 River Street, and Roman Classical, as seen on the grandiose 1930 First Baptist Church at 501 Oak Street (fig. 15), the latest addition to the fine collection of church buildings in the city.

The South Historic District is relatively free of intrusions, although density of development north of Laurel Street is diminished by a series of parking lots adjacent to the commercial business district. That area, however, contains the highest percentage of nineteenth century buildings in the district, including three of its five pre-Civil War residences. One-story contemporary residences (figs. 41, 42, 44) and several nondescript masonry commercial structures (fig. 43) constitute the non-contributing elements. Significantly, the waterfront panorama is unspoiled by development. The sloping bank of the St. Johns east of River Street appears much as it did in the nineteenth century (fig. 46). The northern part of the waterfront contains a grassed park and recreation area. The 1884 Bird's Eye View map of the city (fig. 45) illustrates the relationship of the South Historic District to the other sections of the city in the last year of Palatka's "Golden Era." In all, the South Historic District expresses architecturally the significant role that Palatka played in the nineteenth and early twentieth century development in Florida.

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CRITERIA FOR CLASSIFICATION

Contributing Buildings:
(Red)

buildings which generally date from the nineteenth or early twentieth century and reflect the district's development during this time. Use and function are not factors, although scale and building materials are important considerations.

Contributing but Altered
Buildings:
(Yellow)

generally these meet the same criteria as conforming buildings except alterations have occurred which have changed the buildings' basic character, such as inappropriate siding, replaced window sashes, enclosed porches, and major additions.

Non-Contributing Buildings:
(Blue)

pre-1930 buildings which have been severely and irrevocably altered or post 1930 buildings which do not respect the scale, set-back, or materials used in the buildings of earlier years. Examples would include one-story brick or concrete block ranch houses.

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To accommodate fleeing loyalists, the crown and royal governor during the Revolutionary War distributed numerous grants of land, one of which went to a mulatto farmer and Indian interpreter named Josiah Gray. His 1500-acre tract formed the basis for what became known as Gray's Place or the Palatka Tract. Gray left when Spain reclaimed the colony in 1784, but soon returned and occupied the land until 1804, acting as agent for the important trading firm of Panton, Leslie and Company.⁴ Not until August 3, 1818, did the Spanish ultimately convey legal title to Gray's Place, when it granted Bernardo Segui, a St. Augustine merchant, a tract of 1,200 prize acres along the St. Johns. Neither Segui or his successor to the land George Fleming, developed the grant before Spain relinquished the colony to the United States in 1821.⁵

Like their colonial predecessors, the Americans continued to value the site, which derived its name from the Seminole-Creek word "Pilotaikita," meaning "the crossing," for its strategic location.⁶ Palatka quickly replaced Picolata, the eighteenth and early nineteenth century river port farther north, as the head of ocean navigation on the St. Johns, a port for settlers heading for the interior. Many of the immigrants were inspired by the Florida Association, a northern investment group that set out in the 1820s to develop the central Florida lands once occupied by the Menendez Marques family. A leading member of the group, Dr. Nehemiah Brush of New York, initiated a ferry service in 1822 to connect Palatka with St. Augustine, while the Association itself built a road leading to Alachua that quickly became the preferred route to the interior.⁷

Indian unrest disrupted settlement, however, and by 1829 only a military supply depot remained at the site. Some civilians returned with troops of the United States Army, which chose the location for Fort Shannon, a military reservation that served as headquarters, staging area, ordinance depot, and hospital for the forces prosecuting the war in northeast Florida. Four blocks in the northeast corner of the South Historic District, bounded by St. Johns Avenue, South Fourth Street, Laurel Street, and the river, formed the Southern portion of Fort Shannon.⁸

The fifty or so civilians who remained in Palatka after the troops departed in 1843 formed the nucleus for a community that was to grow to 200 in 1850. After Brush's death in 1843, his heirs conveyed the Palatka Tract, military buildings and all, to a mercantile firm headed by R.R. Reid, the son of a Florida territorial governor. The Reid firm soon overextended itself, declared bankruptcy, and in 1852 transferred the tract to Issac H. Bronson, federal judge for the eastern district of Florida.⁹ The town by then consisted of a fourteen-block area bounded by Madison, Laurel, Fourth (then called Second) streets, and the river. It obtained a city charter from the state legislature on January 8, 1853. By the decade's end, Palatka had become the transportation hub of northeast Florida, as mercantile goods flowing to the interior crossed paths with lumber and citrus products destined for northern export.

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Trusteeship of Palatka Tract succeeded upon Bronson's death in 1855 to James Burt, who was to become the dominant figure in Palatka's phenomenal growth after the Civil War. ¹⁰The three decades that followed the war's end constituted Palatka's "Golden Age," an epoch when the "Gem City of the St. Johns" became a major port and thriving tourist center, described nationally in glowing literary terms that attracted the leading figures of the time, presidents, tycoons, and intellectual greats, to its hotels. The city became the state's principal freight and transportation point, profiting especially from the export of citrus. The introduction of four major railroads in the 1880s enhanced its place in the economy of northeast Florida. In two decades after 1865 the city doubled in size to more than 80 blocks.

Three distinct residential neighborhoods developed within the Palatka Tract after the war. The choicest of the three was popularly called the "Hammock" an area south of the business district where "elegant residences" and "palatial homes" were situated amid tall magnolias and moss-covered oaks. In addition to the picturesque natural setting, this neighborhood also offered a panoramic vista of the river. As Palatka grew the city encouraged development there by extending several streets and grading River Street as far as the southern city limit. ¹¹

The architectural legacy of Palatka's "Golden Age" is the most resplendent aspect of the South Historic District. During that era the community occupied a prominent place in the economic and political affairs of Florida. The homes of Palatka's leading citizens reflect the status they enjoyed. The Conant House at 603 Emmett Street, a richly ornamental and classic Queen Anne, built in 1886 for the general manager of the Florida Southern Railway, is an outstanding example of the residential quality of life favored by the prominent families of Palatka's "Golden Age."

As the century wore to its close, changing transportation patterns and the decline of the north Florida citrus industry spelled an end to the "Golden Age." While former levels of commerce and trade eventually recovered, other cities, notably Jacksonville, passed Palatka by. The city's tourist industry simply evaporated. ¹²Twentieth century economic revival was fueled by small manufacturing industry, particularly by firms involved in production of wood products or by-products. Although it never regained its former prominence, Palatka did prosper with the new century. Its residential areas reflected the arrival of the modern era with paved streets, concrete curblines, sewer and telephones.

The Hammock remained a popular residential site at the turn of the century and after. About twenty-eight percent of the district buildings were constructed in the 1898-1915 period and another thirty percent in the next fifteen years. That development was characterized by patterns of in-fill. The prevalent styles reflected the architectural tastes of Floridians at the time. Colonial Revival was the major architectural theme at the turn of the century, but in the second decade Bungalows became the predominant residential type. Significant expressions of both styles and the evidence of their influence on vernacular creations exist abundantly throughout the district. The South Historic District thus reflects more than a century of life in a city that played a prominent role in the development and growth of northeast Florida. The architectural legacy reaches from before the Civil War through a golden

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era of development, then decline, and, finally, economic renaissance in the twentieth century, offering enduring and vivid affirmation of Palatka's claim to be "the Gem of the St. Johns."

Archaeological Potential:

In conjunction with the historic sites and properties survey, an archaeological survey of the proposed historic district was conducted in 1981 in an effort to describe and assess the area's potential for yielding significant data on its prehistoric and early historic human occupants. As early as 1765 naturalist John Bartram recognized that an ancient plantation of either Indian or Spanish origin had existed on the site that is now the city of Palatka. An early archaeological investigation in 1884 indicated that by that time the site had already been seriously disturbed. In the succeeding century, the processes of urban development and intensive human occupation have apparently destroyed the site's archaeological usefulness. Test borings revealed a seriously disturbed stratiography and yielded virtually nothing in the way of diagnostic ceramics. Several historical sites in the vicinity of the present City, including the Spanish site of Fort Pupo and one of British origin, have been located and tested with little result.¹³ The urban context of the proposed district effectively hinders investigation of early nineteenth century sites, which overlap existing structures and urban improvements.

Historic Preservation Activities:

Although there are no individually listed buildings in the South Historic District, two structures within the proposed North Historic District, the Bronson-Mulholland House and St. Mark's Episcopal Church, are presently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Restoration of the former structure was completed in 1976 under the auspices of the Putnam County Historical Society, which maintains the site for public exhibition. In addition to the privately chartered Historical Society, there are two other local agencies that participate in historic preservation activities. These are the Putnam County Archives and History Office, which manages documents, and records, and the City of Palatka's Office of Community Development. Under the direction of Fred Fox, the City office has for seven years conducted a vigorous rehabilitation program throughout Palatka, rescuing many residences from destruction and earning the City a reputation as a state leader in the rehabilitation aspects of community development. Fox's office obtained funds in 1980 to sponsor the survey of historic sites and properties that resulted in this nomination and has fashioned a historic preservation ordinance providing for municipal control of architectural changes in the proposed South Historic District.

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FOOTNOTES

¹ Charles W. Arnade, "Cattle Raising in Spanish Florida, 1513-1763," Agricultural History, 35 (July, 1961), pp. 5-11; Amy Bushnell, "Privilege and Obligation: The Officials of the Florida Caja Real, 1565 to 1702", Ph.D. dissertation, University of Florida (Gainesville, 1978); "Spanish Map of East Florida" in Archer Butler Hulbert, ed., The Crown Collection of Photographs of American Maps, Series III, Plate No. 126 (Cleveland, 1915). Given the schematic nature of the map and poor scaling, the size and location of the land grants at best can be only approximations.

² Charles Loch Mowat, East Florida as a British Province, 1763-1784 (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1943), pp. 53-55 and 61.

³ William Bartram, The Travels of William Bartram, edited by Francis Harper (New Haven, 1958), pp. 59-60.

⁴ East Florida Papers, Oaths of Allegiance, Bundle 35OU4, Book 1, fol. 9a; Florida Historical Quarterly, 6 (October, 1927), pp. 120-122; East Florida Papers on the Panton, Leslie, and Co., 1784-1813, Bundle 116L9, doc. 1804-1 and 1804-3.

⁵ American State Papers; Public Lands, 5 vols., (Washington: Duff Green, 1834), III, Agreement Book A, p. 61; Biographical File, St. Augustine, Florida; see also Works Project Administration, Spanish Land Grants in Florida, 5 vols. (Tallahassee, 1940).

⁶ William Alexander Read, Florida Place Names of Indian Origin and Seminole Personal Names (Baton Rouge, 1934), p. 83; Bertha E. Bloodworth and Alton C. Morris. Places in the Sun: The History and Romance of Florida Place-Names (Gainesville, 1978), p. 99.

⁷ Information on the Florida Association and the Arrendondo grant is found in Spanish Land Grants, II, Confirmed Claims, A-25, A-27, A-28; American State Papers, IV, 426; Nehemiah Brush Land Book, 1848-1880, Box 24 in P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida, Gainesville.

⁸ Its importance as a supply depot is indicated by the fact that in 1841 and 1842, the Deputy Quartermaster commanded the department from Fort Shannon. Allan A. Swanson, "Pilo-Taikita: A History of Palatka, Florida" (Jacksonville, 1967), pp. 124-125; (H.A. Norris), "Map of Piltaka. E.F." (1851). Analysis of the 1851 map reveals key information on the size and configuration of the fort as well as the location of specific army buildings and structures. The town had not changed that dramatically in the decade to render the map useless for describing the military complex.

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⁹The sale to the Reid firm is confirmed in Putnam County Courthouse, Deed Records, Book A, pp. 26-28; the Reid sale to Bronson in Ibid, Book A, pp. 40-42 and 385-390. One of Reid's partners was George Burt, also remembered as the first corresponding secretary and treasurer of the Florida Historical Society. The Society, in fact, held its first meeting in Burt's St. Augustine store in 1855. Burt served as mayor of St. Augustine in 1867-1868. St. Augustine Historical Society, Biographical File: Burt.

¹⁰Putnam County Archives and History, Biographical File: Burt; Putnam County Courthouse, Grantor Index (James Burt), pp. 85-86; Ibid., Deed Records, Book C, pp. 483-487. James Burt was the younger brother of George Burt.

¹¹Ed. Rumley, A Description of Palatka, "The Gem City" (Palatka, 1887), p. 10; Ed. Rumley, A Panorama of Palatka, "The Gem City of the St. Johns" (Jacksonville, 1895), pp. 18-19; for a reference on the opening of River Street in 1853, see Putnam County Courthouse, Deed Records, Book A, p. 103.

¹²The major event in the collapse of the city's tourist industry was a devastating fire on November 7-8, 1884, that leveled five downtown blocks and consumed the four largest hotels. For a description of the conflagration, see the Palatka Weekly News, November 15, 1884.

¹³The summary of survey findings is presented in Historic Property Associates, "Cultural Resource Survey of Palatka, Florida," unpublished report, 1981, copy on file at Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, pp. 70-87. See also Mildred Fryman, John Griffin, and Jim Miller, "Proposed Site for a Coal-Fired Steam Electric Generating Plant in Putnam County," unpublished report, 1978, copy on file at same location.

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BEGINNING: At point, A, which is the intersection of the Low Water Line of the St. Johns River and the south right-of-way of St. Johns Avenue; proceed,

WESTWARD: To point, B, which is the SW corner of St. Johns and South First Street; thence,

SOUTHWARD: Along the west right-of-way of South First Street to point, C, which is two hundred (200) feet north of the NW corner of South First Street and Laurel Avenue; thence,

WESTWARD: Along a line to point, D, which is on the east right-of-way of South Second Street one hundred fifty (150) feet north of the intersection of South First and South Second Streets; thence,

NORTHWARD: Along the east right-of-way of South Second Street one hundred (100) feet to point (e); thence,

WESTWARD: Along the south line of lot nine (9) block twelve (12) to point, F, which is the SW corner of lot four (4) block twelve (12); thence,

NORTHWARD: Along the west line of lot four (4) block twelve (12) to point, G, which is the NE corner of said lot; thence,

WESTWARD: Along the north line of lot four (4) block twelve (12) to the intersection of the east right-of-way of South Third Street, which is point, H; thence,

NORTHWARD: Along the east right-of-way of South Third Street fifty (50) feet to point, I; thence

WESTWARD: Along a line to the NE corner of lot three (3) block fourteen (14); continuing,

WESTWARD: Along the north line of the following; lots two (2) and three (3) of block fourteen (14); lots two (2), three (3), four (4), of block twenty-five (25); lots two (2), three (3), six (6) of block twenty-eight (28); lots one (1), four (4), five

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(5), six (6), nine (9), twelve (12), of block thirty eight (38); lots two (2), three (3), six (6), of block fifty-four (54); and lots two (2), three (3), six (6), of block sixty three (63) to point, J; thence,

SOUTHWARD: Along the west right-of-way of South Ninth Street to its intersection with Laurel Avenue, which is point, K; thence,

WESTWARD: Along the north right-of-way of Laurel Avenue to a point, L, which is the northwest intersection of Laurel Avenue and South Tenth Street; thence,

SOUTHWARD: Along the west right-of-way of South Tenth Street to a point, M, which is the southwest corner of the intersection of South Tenth Street and Carr Avenue; thence,

EASTWARD: Along the south right-of-way of Carr Avenue to a point, N, which is the intersection with South Ninth Street; thence,

SOUTHWARD: Along the west right-of-way of South Ninth Street to its intersection with Crill Avenue, which is point, O; thence,

SOUTHWARD: Along the south right-of-way of Morris Street to the NW corner of the intersection of Morris and Emmett, this being point, P; thence,

WESTWARD: Along the north right-of-way of Emmett one hundred twenty (120) feet to point, Q; thence,

SOUTHWARD: Along the west line of lot one (1) block fifty (50) to point, R, which is the intersection of and extension of the above line and Low Water Line of the St. Johns River; thence,

EASTWARD: Along the Low Water Line of the St. Johns River to the point of beginning.

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Boundary Justification

The South Historic District includes one of Palatka's two major concentrations of 19th and early 20th century architecture. The district includes the historically popular residential area known as the "Hammock". The St. Johns River forms a natural eastern and southeastern boundary. The northern boundary is along the southern edge of the business area and includes significant buildings such as St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church, the Coca-Cola building and The Campbell Administration Building. The southwestern and western boundaries are defined by the residential architecture they contain. Residential use is included while industrial and undeveloped city lots are excluded.

Contributing Buildings	72	34%
Contributing but Altered	97	46%
Non-contributing	<u>41</u>	20%
Total	210	